

REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 through 16 are currently pending. Claims 9-16 have been allowed, while claims 1-8 have been rejected. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested in view of the comments provided below.

B. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,121. In response thereto, Applicant encloses with this Letter a Terminal Disclaimer in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.130(b) and 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c).

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-8 has been obviated and, therefore, respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested.

* Enclosed is a check for \$130.00 for the required Terminal Disclaimer fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



Derick E. Allen, Reg. No. 43,468
SENNIGER, POWERS, LEAVITT & ROEDEL
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

DEA/skd
* Enclosures